

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6073

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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LONDON FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S SPEECH TO SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN

REFERENCE: JOHANNESBURG 1274 (NOTAL)

1. SPEAKING AT OPPENHEIMER'S MAY 21 DINNER FOR OVER 200 SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN, A SPRINKLING OF THEM BLACKS, AND WITH COVERAGE BY US AND SOUTH AFRICAN TV NETWORKS, AMBASSADOR YOUNG FOLLOWED HIS BASIC THEME BUT DEPARTED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE PREPARED TEXT. A FULL TRANSCRIPT WILL BE CABLED BY SEPTTEL.

2. SAYING THAT HE COULD NOT PRESUME TO PRESCRIBE FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT HIS LISTENERS WOULD HAVE TO JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES THE VALIDITY OF HIS REMARKS, YOUNG STRESSED THAT SOUTH AFRICA
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WAS FALLING BEHIND THE REST OF THE WORLD ECONOMICALLY, WHILE IT SHOULD INSTEAD BE PLAYING A LEADING ROLE. CITING TRADE STATISTICS, HE DEMONSTRATED HOW THE WEIGHT OF WESTERN ECONOMIC INTEREST HAD SHIFTED AWAY FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO BLACK AFRICA. SOUTH AFRICA HAD ENORMOUS POTENTIAL FOR MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MARKET SYSTEM BUT IT WAS NOT MEETING THOSE REQUIREMENTS. IT WAS TENDING, AS A

CONSEQUENCE, TO FALL STILL FURTHER BEHIND.

3. IN ITS OWN ECONOMIC SELF-INTEREST AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE MAJORITY OF SOUTH AFRICANS MUST BE BROUGHT INTO THE SYSTEM. DRAWING ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH AND ON HIS OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, YOUNG UNDERSCORED THE POLITICAL AS WELL AS THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FLOWING FROM INVOLVEMENT OF THE MAJORITY IN THE SYSTEM. PREJUDICE WAS BAD FOR BUSINESS. THE CHANGE THAT CAME IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH IN LESS THAN A GENERATION FREED BOTH BLACK AND WHITE. IF THE MAJORITY HAD A STAKE IN THE SYSTEM, THEY WOULD SUPPORT IT. THEY WOULD NOT SEEK THE OVERTURN OF SOMETHING FROM WHICH THEY BENEFITED. THEY WOULD BE TOO BUSY MAKING MONEY TO HATE. THIS IS WHERE SOUTH AFRICA'S ENERGIES AND RESOURCES SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED, RATHER THAN ON A SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT WHICH FACES NO MEANINGFUL CHALLENGE WITHIN THOUSANDS OF MILES.

4. CALL IT MAJORITY RULE, ONE MAN ONE VOTE, OR WHATEVER, YOUNG SAID, POLITICAL SOLUTIONS SUPPORTIVE OF A SYSTEM BENEFICIAL TO THE MAJORITY WOULD BE FOUND. IN THIS WAY, THE MARKET SYSTEM HAD CONSISTENTLY PROVEN ITSELF THE GREATEST FORCE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGE AGAINST ALL OTHERS. TIME, HOWEVER, HAD BECOME IMPORTANT. IF THE MARKET SYSTEM WAS TO SURVIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SERVE AS A FORCE FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE, SOUTH AFRICA MUST BEGIN SOON TO MAKE USE OF IT BY ENGAGING THE MAJORITY. SOUTH AFRICA'S WELL-DEVELOPED ECONOMY AND ITS POTENTIAL PROVIDED THE SOUND BASE FOR ATTAINMENT OF THIS GOAL.
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5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REMARKS WERE VERY WELL RECEIVED BY THE BUSINESSMEN. AS OPPENHEIMER SAID, IN THANKING YOUNG, THE AMBASSADOR HAD GIVEN THEM SOMETHING IMPORTANT FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

6. THE HALF HOUR ALLOWED FOR QUESTIONS WAS SLOW IN STARTING AND, IN THE END, MOST OF THE QUESTIONS WERE POSED BY SOME OF THE FEW BLACKS PRESENT. THERE WAS NO CHALLENGE, BY EITHER BLACK OR WHITE, TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S THESIS. MOST OF THE QUESTIONS CALLED ESSENTIALLY FOR AMPLIFICATION AND ELABORATION OF WHAT HE HAD TO SAY. ONE, ASKED BY A BLACK, PERTAINED TO HOW THE US MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN GETTING THE PROCESS YOUNG SUGGESTED UNDERWAY AND SUSTAINING IT. A SINGLE QUESTION, BY A WHITE BUSINESSMAN, CONCERNED WHITE SURVIVAL AND "IDENTITY" IN THE FACE OF THE UNPROMISING EXAMPLES OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. YOUNG RESPONDED TO THIS QUESTION, THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE WHITE COMMUNITY, BY ILLUSTRATING HOW MODERATION

TENDED TO PREVAIL IN PROPORTION TO THE EXTENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALREADY ACHIEVED. IN THIS SENSE,
HE EMPHASIZED, SOUTH AFRICA HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF A
HUNDRED YEARS' HEAD START. IT HAS A HIGHLY DEVELOPED
ECONOMY WITH LARGE POTENTIAL ALREADY FUNCTIONING AND
CAPABLE OF UTILIZING THE ACTIVE AND FULL PARTICIPATION OF
THE MAJORITY. THE EVENTUAL ECONOMIC AND MODERATING POLITICAL
IMPLICATIONS FOR ALL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WERE GREAT.
KIRBY

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